

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 09996 01 OF 02 050933Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 AS-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /135 W
-----053785 050948Z /10

P 050842Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9141
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
USLO PEKING PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 9996

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USUN PASS LOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: JA, KN, SK, PLOS, EFIS
SUBJECT: JAPANESE RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF
200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE

SUMMARY: SURPRISED BY NORTH KOREAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF 200-MILE
ECONOMIC ZONE, GOJ WILL ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE JAPANESE FISHING
ACCESS TO ZONE THROUGH NON-GOVERNMENTAL CHANNELS. IT IS NOT YET
CLEAR, HOWEVER, HOW FAR GOJ WILL GO IN PROVIDING GOVERNMENTAL
"GUARANTEE" OF ANY SUCH PRIVATE FISHERIES AGREEMENT AS
INSISTED UPON BY NORTH KOREANS. IT IS LIKELY, HOWEVER, JAPANESE
RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREAN ZONE, COMBINED WITH CONTINUED CON-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 09996 01 OF 02 050933Z

TROVERSY OVER ALLEGED KCIA ACTIVITY IN JAPAN, WILL MARK DOWN-
TURN IN JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. PYONGYANG'S JULY 1 ANNOUNCEMENT OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE
CAUGHT JAPANESE BY SURPRISE. MEDIA REACTED WITH FLURRY OF HEAD-
LINES DESCRIBING THIS LATEST THREAT TO JAPANESE FISHING
INTERESTS. FONOFF, EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER NORTH KOREAN DECISION,

STATED IT WOULD SEEK "INFORMAL CONTACT" WITH DPRK DIPLOMATS TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON PROPOSED ZONE. PM FUKUDA, ON CAMPAIGN TRAIL IN KOBE, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ANY FISHERIES PROBLEMS WITH DPRK COULD BE SETTLED BY "PRIVATE AGREEMENT." LDP DIET MEMBER CHUJI KUNO, HEAD OF JAPAN-DPRK PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, PROMPTLY ANNOUNCED HE WOULD LEAD DIET DELEGATION TO NORTH KOREA THIS MONTH TO DISCUSS SUCH NON-GOVERNMENTAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JULY 4, FONOFF NE ASIA DEPDIR KAWASHIMA SPECULATED THAT NORTH KOREAN MOTIVES BEHIND ANNOUNCEMENT OF 200-MILE ZONE HAD BEEN THREEFOLD:

--DESIRE TO EXTRACT SOME FORM OF OFFICIAL JAPANESE RECOGNITION OF DPRK THROUGH FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS (WITH CORRESPONDING DETERIORATION OF JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS);

--NEED TO PROTECT NORTH KOREAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN SEA OF JAPAN FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET AND JAPANESE 200-MILE ZONES; AND

--HOPE OF OBTAINING BADLY-NEEDED FOREIGN CURRENCY THROUGH ENTRY FEES IMPOSED ON FOREIGN VESSELS SEEKING TO FISH IN NEW ZONE.

KAWASHIMA DID NOT DOUBT THAT FIRST MOTIVE -- GAINING POLITICAL CONCESSION FROM JAPAN -- WAS FOREMOST IN NORTH KOREAN MINDS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 09996 01 OF 02 050933Z

(AN ASSESSMENT SHARED BY LOCAL ROK EMBASSY).

3. KAWASHIMA EXPLAINED THAT FONOFF WAS PLANNING TO QUERY NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION AT LOS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK FOR DETAILS ON NORTH KOREAN ZONE. HE WAS NOT, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY OPTIMISTIC THAT NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED OR WAS SUFFICIENTLY INFORMED TO BE FORTHCOMING. FONOFF'S PRIMARY GOAL WAS TO NEGOTIATE JAPANESE ACCESS TO NORTH KOREAN ZONE INDIRECTLY THROUGH VEHICLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL JAPANESE GROUP WHICH MIGHT SIGN PRIVATE AGREEMENT WITH DPRK. IN WEEKEND CONSULTATIONS WITH FONOFF, FISHERIES AGENCY HAD AGREED TO PUT TOGETHER POSSIBLE DELEGATION OF PRIVATE FISHERIES REPRESENTATIVES. ACCORDING TO KAWASHIMA, IT HAD NOT YET BEEN DECIDED WHETHER FISHERIES REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT BE TIED ONTO KUNO'S PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO NORTH KOREA. KAWASHIMA NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH KUNO'S RELIABILITY AS NEGOTIATOR WITH DPRK WAS QUESTIONABLE, HIS ESTABLISHED CHANNEL TO PYONGYANG MIGHT BE USEFUL IN THIS CASE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 09996 02 OF 02 050940Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AS-01 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00

DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01

PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /135 W

-----053840 050946Z /16

P 050842Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9142

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TOKYO 9996

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USUN PASS LOS DELEGATION

4. KAWASHIMA ADMITTED THAT IT WAS LIKELY NORTH KOREA WOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST ON GOJ "GUARANTEE" OF ANY PRIVATE FISHERIES AGREEMENT. NATURE OF DPRK'S DESIRED "GUARANTEE" REMAINED VAGUE, BUT CLEARLY WOULD BE MEANT TO IMPLY JAPANESE GOVERNMENTAL RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA. KAWASHIMA ASSERTED THAT FONOFF WOULD RESIST ANY SUCH ATTEMPT AT DE FACTO RECOGNITION. IT WAS, HOWEVER, TOO EARLY TO TELL JUST HOW FAR JAPANESE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP WOULD BE WILLING TO GO TO ACHIEVE FISHERIES SETTLEMENT WITH PYONGYANG. THERE WAS NEED FOR FUKUDA GOVERNMENT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT WAS ACTING QUICKLY AND RESOLUTELY ON BEHALF OF JAPANESE FISHING INTERESTS. KAWASHIMA NOTED, THOUGH, THAT MOST JAPANESE COMPANIES FISHING IN NORTH KOREAN ZONE ALSO HAD BOATS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 09996 02 OF 02 050940Z

IN SOUTH KOREAN WATERS; POLITICAL PRESSURE THEY WOULD EXERT ON FUKUDA FOR POLITICAL CONCESSIONS TO DPRK MIGHT BE TEMPERED BY CONCERN ABOUT RETALIATION BY ROK.

5. KAWASHIMA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOJ WOULD HAVE TO PLAY "A MOST DELICATE AND DANGEROUS GAME" IN ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN ITS FISHING INTERESTS IN DPRK ZONE WITHOUT OFFENDING ROK AND JEOPARDIZING ITS INTERESTS IN SOUTH KOREAN WATERS. (JAPANESE CATCHES IN NORTH KOREAN ZONE, WHICH INCLUDE SQUID AND MUCH-PRIZED BLOWFISH FUGU, AMOUNT TO ALMOST 64,000 TONS A YEAR VALUED AT \$100 MILLION; THOSE IN SOUTH KOREAN WATERS AMOUNT TO 180,000 TONS VALUED AT \$160 MILLION). FONOFF'S "WORST CASE," WHICH KAWASHIMA GLUMLY PREDICTED WOULD OCCUR, WAS THAT ROK WOULD NOW DECLARE ITS OWN 200-MILE ZONE, REQUIRING JAPAN TO CONDUCT SIMULTANEOUS FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS WITH ROK AND INDIRECTLY WITH DPRK. ROK 200-MILE ZONE WOULD REOPEN TAKESHIMA/DOK TO TERRITORIAL DISPUTE AND MIGHT WELL CALL INTO QUESTION ENTIRE CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT.

6. COMMENT: IN RECENT MONTHS FONOFF NE ASIA DIVISION HAS GIVEN INCREASING CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING DIALOGUE WITH PYONGYANG THROUGH INDIRECT "NON-GOVERNMENTAL" CHANNELS. AS INFORMALLY EXPRESSED TO EMBOFFS BY FONOFF OFFICIALS, GOJ WOULD HOPE THROUGH SUCH EXPLORATORY DIALOGUE TO EXERCISE SOME FORM OF MODERATING INFLUENCE ON NORTH KOREAN POLICIES. (IMPLICIT IN FONOFF THINKING, MOREOVER, HAS BEEN CONSIDERATION THAT ANY SUCH TENTATIVE DIALOGUE WOULD ALSO SERVE AS HEDGE AGAINST ANY SUDDEN SHIFT IN US POLICY TOWARDS DPRK). AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, FONOFF THINKING IN THIS REGARD HAS BEEN PREDICATED ON BELIEF THAT JAPAN, HOLDING BETTER POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CARDS THAN DPRK, WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL INITIATIVE AND PACE IN EXPLORING ANY SUCH DIALOGUE. NORTH KOREAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO PLACE JAPAN IN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 09996 02 OF 02 050940Z

DISADVANTAGEOUS ROLE OF SUITOR SEEKING NORTH KOREAN AGREEMENT TO MAINTENANCE OF JAPANESE FISHING INTERESTS. MOREOVER, IT HAS BEEN UNCLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT FONOFF WORKING-LEVEL THINKING ON DIALOGUE WITH DPRK HAS BEEN SHARED BY LDP POLITICAL LEADERSHIP, IN WHICH PRO-ROK SENTIMENT IS RELATIVELY STRONG.

7. IT IS LIKELY THAT, HOWEVER CAUTIOUSLY AND INDIRECTLY HANDLED, GOJ CONTACT WITH DPRK ON FISHERIES MATTERS WILL ELICIT ROK DISPLEASURE. COMBINATION OF FISHERIES-RELATED PROBLEMS AND CONTINUING CONTROVERSY OVER KCIA ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN MAY MARK DOWNTURN IN JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS FOR THIS SUMMER.

MANSFIELD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT, FISHING AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO09996
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770237-0958
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770790/aaaadamq.tel
Line Count: 217
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 34d8b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1961892
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE SUMMARY: SURPRISED BY NORTH KOREAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF
TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, JA, KN, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/34d8b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009